



Faith Christian Assembly

March Newsletter

March 1, 2023

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Interesting Times *by Pastor Sheri Leming*

I've heard that there is a Chinese expression that says, "May he live in interesting times."

2 Timothy 3:1 warns, "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come."

Paul here assures Timothy that persecutions and trials were to be expected by all who aimed to lead holy lives, and that it was certainly to be expected that evil men would become worse and worse.

Jesus said in John 16:33, "...in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Times like these can have a tendency to make us feel anything but, "good cheer."

When Goliath was taunting Israel, 1 Samuel 17:24 tells us that the men of Israel were "dreadfully afraid." But we also read that young David "ran to the battle" [17:48] to meet Goliath. What made him do that? We read earlier in the passage that David had experienced victory in battles...with a lion, and a bear. He was confident that Goliath would meet the same end as they did.

1 Samuel 17:37, David said, "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." David's confidence was in the Lord, even though his brothers and others were criticizing him for his boldness in facing

this challenge. They evidently were convinced that facing a bear or a lion was completely different from facing Goliath. But David knew he trusted in the same Deliverer.

So, even if you find yourself in the middle of 'interesting times', make a decision to set your mind on those lions and bears that the Lord delivered you from in the past. And run to the current battle. God will meet you there!

Lamentations 3:21-23:

This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

Focus on Him *by Earlene Leming*



Earlene Leming

In 1952, young Florence Chadwick stepped into the waters off Catalina Island of the Pacific Ocean, determined to swim to the shore of Mainline California. She had already been the first woman to swim the English Channel both ways. The weather was foggy and chilly, and she could barely see the boats accompanying her, yet she swam for fifteen hours. When she begged

to be taken out of the water along the way, her mother, in a boat alongside her, assured her she was close and that she could make it. However, physically and emotionally exhausted, she finally stopped swimming and was pulled out. It wasn't until AFTER she was on the boat that she discovered the shore was less than a half-mile away. At a news conference the next day she

said, "All I could see was the fog. I think if I could have seen the shore, I would have made it."

For believers, the SHORE IS JESUS who has promised us eternal life with Him. No matter how rough our life gets, if we FOCUS on HIM...we will make it!

"And behold, I saw a new heaven and a new earth..." Revelation 21:1a

Pruning Seasons *by Rose Seeley*



The month of March brings the end of winter, ushering in the first day of spring and another new beginning. Here in California we're blessed with mild weather so we're not necessarily looking forward to the snow melting and the foliage coming back to life, but we can still enjoy new leaves on trees and the seasonal flower blooms. I'm looking forward to seeing my roses in bloom. The

rose plant can be pretty unattractive without the blooms, mainly when you have to cut them back in winter to stimulate growth. But soon after they're pruned, they start to fill in with tiny leaves, and then the buds come. Before you know it, your bushes are full of green leaves and gorgeous, colorful blooms. So it is with our lives... We all need some pruning here and there, now and then.

John 15:2 NLT says: "He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and He prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more."

Like the pruning of the rose bushes, pruning in our lives isn't pleasant or attractive,

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March Calendar

SUNDAYS

Service Times:

10:30am and
5:30pm

Pre-service
prayer 5:00 pm

March 5 - Com-
munion service

10:30 am



MONDAYS

Office Closed

*Happy First Day
of Spring!*

TUESDAYS

Church Office/Library
Hours

10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Call for appointment

WEDNESDAYS

Bible Study 11:00 am

March 8 - Special
Guest Speaker Curt
Cornelius

THURSDAYS

March 16 - 1:00 pm
Men's Ministry meeting
Touch of Love Wom-
en's Ministry meeting
GriefShare—5:30 pm
weekly in Garden
Room. This session
ends March 16

FRIDAYS

Church Office Hours
10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
Call for appointment

Pruning Seasons ~ *continued from page 2*

but it helps us continue to grow in our walk with the Lord and, as the scripture promises, leads to the production of more and better fruit. Like me, you can probably think of times in your life when you've experienced pruning, and you have emerged from those times with a deep sense of gratitude and joy.

"For whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he

delights." Proverbs 3:12 NKJ

Pruning can involve, among other things, getting rid of a bad habit, ending an unhealthy relationship, creating better boundaries in an area, or adjusting an attitude or wrong thought pattern. Often, we know in our heart of hearts that a change is needed, and God is gracious to give us opportunities to make those

changes ourselves and will even give us the guidance to navigate a change if we ask. But like the good Father He is, He'll do the pruning if necessary. His desire is to bring us to a better place, a place with beautiful and abundant fruit. He loves us too much to leave us stuck where we are, and will gracefully take us on the journey to be conformed to the image of His Son.

"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." Romans 8:29 NKJ

In pruning seasons we can trust the One who goes before us and brings us through, that He is faithful at His Word to bring more and better fruit in our lives!



13820 Seal Beach Blvd
P.O. Box 3444
Seal Beach, CA

Phone: 562-598-9010
Email: contact@fcachurch.net

Visit us on Facebook!
facebook.com/FCACHurch



Faith Christian Assembly is a member of the Grace International Churches and Ministries, Inc., which was originally organized as the California Evangelistic Association in 1934. Beginning with one church, Colonial Tabernacle, located in Long Beach, CA the organization has since grown to include more than 4400 churches in the United States as well as in many nations of the world. It is now headquartered in Houston, TX, and overseen by an Executive Team and a Board of Directors, including as President Pastor Steve Riggle. Pastor Sheri Leming serves on the Grace International Missions Board and on the Grace SoCal District Committee.

From the Desk of Pastor Sheri Leming ~ March 1, 2023

March is already here! Can you believe it? Spring is almost upon us. I love this time of year when we enjoy the fragrance of Spring. Our Lord promises in Joel 2:23, "He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains..." It is wonderful to live with the knowledge that our hope is in the Lord. And how blessed we are to gather as a family - whether in the sunshine, or the spring rains.

We invite you to join us for our March Bible Study each Wednesday at 11am. We will be in the Gospel of John as we prepare our hearts for Resurrection Sunday. We

are also excited to have Pastor Curt Cornelius teaching on Wednesday, March 8 at 11am. We are always so blessed by his ministry. We encourage you not to miss out on these rich times in the Word of God.

Please be sure to join us this first Sunday of March for our 10:30am service as we partake in Holy Communion together. This is such a set apart time to partake together and in this way we obey Jesus command to, "Do this in remembrance of Me."

Please join us for pre-service prayer this Sunday

at 5pm, before our 5:30pm Sunday Evening Service.

Romans 8:26, NIV

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure.

D.L. Moody

Looking forward to Sunday,

Pastor Sheri and Gary Leming